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News Release

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St. Paul Man Indicted for Identity Theft

Minneapolis - A St. Paul man was indicted today by a federal grand jury for identity theft and related offenses. Issa Sanad Beiruti, age 38, was charged with twenty-three counts of aggravated identity theft, nine counts of false representation of a social security number, six counts of bank fraud, eight counts of credit card fraud, four counts of presenting counterfeit securities, and one count of presenting a fictitious instrument.

The fifty-one count indictment states that between October of 2006 and January of 2007, Beiruti knowingly used without authority or authorization the identification of another person on at least twenty occasions. In several instances, Beiruti allegedly represented the social security number of someone else as his own so he could open bank accounts and credit card accounts and acquire personal property. The indictment also states that Beiruti executed a scheme to defraud at least one financial institution by using the identification of another person in an effort to withdraw money

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from that person's accounts. Furthermore, Beiruit allegedly used the credit card numbers of others to purchase merchandise from local businesses, including Home Depot, Nordstrom's Department Store, and Osterman Jewelers. Finally, the indictment states that on at least one occasion, Beiruit presented a false check to a local bank; and on at least four other occasions, he issued counterfeit checks.

If convicted, Beiruit faces a maximum potential penalty of two years in federal prison on each count of identity theft, five years on each count of false representation of a social security number, twenty years on each count of bank fraud, between ten and fifteen years on each count of credit card fraud, ten years on each count of issuing a counterfeit security, and twenty-five years for presenting a fictitious instrument. Any sentence will be determined by a judge.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the United States Postal Inspection Service. The case is being prosecuted by David M. Genrich.

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An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by the defendant. The defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial